

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3107

ANSWERED ON:21.03.2017

Agreement for Cooperation in Agriculture

Adhikari, Shri, Dibyendu; Gavit Dr. Heena Vijaykumar; Jayavardhan Dr. Jayakumar; Mahadik Shri Dhananjay Bhimrao; Patel Shri Prahlad Singh; Patil Shri Vijaysinh Mohite; Reddy Shri J.C. Divakar; Satav Shri Rajeev Shankarrao; Sule Smt. Supriya Sadanand; Suman Shri Balka

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has signed agreements with a number of countries including Poland and Israel to enhance agricultural cooperation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last five years and the current year along with the core objectives thereof;
- (c) the details of programmes undertaken and implemented vice-versa support extended and activities done under these agreements during the said period, country-wise;
- (d) whether a Joint Working Group has been set up thereunder and if so, the details thereof along with the benefit that India will get out of this agreement; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to promote viable farm practices that have been adopted by several countries?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. Government has signed agreement with 74 countries including Israel. Moreover, an agreement with Poland has also been approved for signing. During last five years, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare has signed 16 MoUs/Agreements with foreign countries for cooperation in the field of agriculture and allied sector. Details of these MoUs/Agreements are as under:

Contdâ€2/-

-2-

Year Country(s)

2012 Sri Lanka, Australia, Vietnam;

2013 --

2014 Morocco, Vietnam

2015 Mongolia

2016 Armenia, Madagascar, Lithuania, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Brazil;

2017(till date) UAE, Kenya, Portugal, Mauritius

The areas for cooperation in these MoUs/Agreements inter-alia include cooperation in research and development, increasing productivity, post-harvest management, value addition/food processing, plant protection, animal husbandry, dairying and fisheries, enhancing trade and mutual exchange, reciprocal visits of scientists, mutual exchange of technical expertise, exchange of Germ-plasm, transfer of technology, setting up of centers of excellence in different fields to demonstrate new technologies etc.

(c) to (e): Benefits accruing from such Agreements/MoUs are in the nature of capacity building, knowledge exchange through visits of scientists and technicians, exchange of genetic resources etc. that aid in development of appropriate technologies and farm practices for enhancing agriculture productivity at farmer's field. Such cooperation also facilitates creation of opportunities for trade in agricultural commodities. India's strategic interests are also served through partnerships with other countries.

The Agreement with Israel does not have provision for Joint Working Group. However, various Centre of Excellences in the areas of fruits and vegetables have been established/approved in different States under the provisions of MoUs signed with Israel. In addition, Israeli experts visit India for providing demonstration and training while Indian scientists and experts also visit Israel for training as part of the Capacity Building component of the Agreement.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has established a network of 645 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in the country for assessment and demonstration of technologies/products and its dissemination through extension programmes including training of farmers to update their knowledge and skills
